

August 11, 2011
OHIO COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

LOCAL/STATE BOARD FACILITIES HEARING REPORT

A Second Local/State public hearing was held at the Ohio County High School Library on August 11, 2011, at 5:30 p.m. (CDT). The purpose of this public hearing was to propose a Second District Facility Plan developed by the Ohio County Board of Education. The Local Planning Committee (LPC) and Ohio Co. Board of Education met as required by the Kentucky State Board of Education. The two groups met in a joint meeting to resolve issues in the first District Facilities Plan rejected by the Kentucky State Board of Education. The Ohio Co. Board of Education and LPC remained in opposition to the plan proposed by the Local Planning Committee. The Ohio Co. Planning Committee after mediation voted on their original plan to be submitted to the Ohio Co. Board of Education. The LPC vote on their original plan was (10) yes and (5) no. The Ohio Co. Board of Education voted on the plan submitted by the LPC and it failed being adopted by a vote of (3) No and (2) Yes. The Board then proposed a new District Facilities Plan making one change to the LPC's plan. The board changed the LPC's organizational plan recommendation from (P-5, 6-8, 9-12) to an organizational plan of (P-6, 7-8, 9-12). The board then passed this amended plan by a vote of (3) three yes and (2) two no. The Kentucky State Board of Education required this joint meeting of the LPC and Ohio Co. Board of Education along with this second public hearing.

There were twenty-nine (29) individuals in attendance. Grover Canty, Facilitator for the Kentucky School Boards Association, served as the district-appointed hearing officer.

COMMENTS

The hearing officer called the public hearing to order. The hearing officer outlined the purpose of the hearing and the hearing procedures in accordance with 702 KAR 1:001. It was explained that those persons wishing to speak would be given the opportunity and that written statements would be accepted. All considerations will be made available to the Kentucky Board of Education via the hearing officer's report. The hearing officer read the proposed new District Facility Plan which includes; **Making All Schools Permanent Centers except Horse Branch Elementary which will be a Transitional Center. The district organizational plan is P-6, 7-8, 9-12. There are no projects in Priority One (1). Priority Two (2) includes Major Renovations/additions to Wayland Alexander Elementary, Ohio Co. Middle School, Ohio Co. High School, Render Center, Western Elementary, Fordsville Elementary, Area Technology Center, and Southern Elementary. There are no projects in Priority Three (3) and Priority Four (4) includes Major renovations to Central Office, Central Storage, Maintenance Building, and Central Bus Garage. Priority Five (5) includes several (11) discretionary projects and renovations to Horse Branch Elementary.**

There was no written testimony submitted to the district superintendent, Mrs. Soretta Ralph. There were four people who spoke at the hearing. Cheston Hoover (Ohio Co. Middle School Principal), Bobby Porter (Wayland Elementary teacher), Terri Minton (Parent), and Marianne Pieper (Community Representative) all spoke in opposition to the plan. The primary opposition from all speakers was the organizational plan; all four supported a P-5, 6-8, 9-12 plan. Copies of Mrs. Pieper's and Mrs. Minton's presentations are attached. Other opposition or support for the District Facilities Plan can be referenced in the prior hearing report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The LPC and Ohio County Board of Education are in disagreement over the District Facilities Plan. We have had numerous meetings, five (5) public forums and two (2) Local/State Public Hearing. The entire process has been in full compliance with the Kentucky Department of Education Planning and Master Educational Facilities Manual 702 KAR 4:180.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed by;

Grover M. Canty, Hearing Officer

Timothy K. Lucas, KDE Fac. Mgmt.

cc: Greg Dunbar, Director
Planning File

Attachments: Local/State Board Public Hearing Agenda,
Ohio Co. School District Facility Plan, Board Order Approving Hearing
Officers Report, and DFP. Recording of Public Hearing.